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Youth Policy: The monthly report on national youth programs and issues (October/November 1990)

Youth Policy Institute

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Youth Policy

The monthly report on national youth programs and issues

Volume 12

October/November 1990

Number 7

California Gets a "D"

In its 1990 California Children's Report Card, Children Now gave California an overall grade of "D" in its treatment of the 7.7 million children living there. Here, Children Now, a voice for California's children, provides a ten-year action plan towards making California an "A+" state for children.



DEC 1 8 1990

THE 1990
CALIFORNIA
CHILDREN'S
REPORT CARD



THE RIGHT START

CALIFORNIA'S
CHILDREN

AN ACTION PLAN

90% of American Students Don't Pass?

The Troubled Journey, a study by the Search Institute for Lutheran Brotherhood and its RespecTeen program finds that only 10% of middle American students meet the study's 'standards of well-being.'

Volunteerism Up

National Service: Volunteerism has risen dramatically since 1987. The "points of light" may surprise you.

Is Poverty a Reality in America?

Poverty: Is the Census Bureau making an accurate count of Americans living in poverty? Find out why not from two differing perspectives.

Girl Scouts: Programs Help Youth At Risk

Girl Scouts' development of three inner-city programs address contemporary issues facing young girls.

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NATIONAL SERVICE: THE OVERVIEW

Scope of the Problem:

•An INDEPENDENT SECTOR national survey report indicates that many Americans are not being asked to volunteer. Among the 41 percent who were asked to volunteer in the past year, 87 percent actually did. Among the 57 percent of those who were not asked, only 30 percent volunteered. These findings suggest that if more Americans are asked to volunteer, the proportion of the population that volunteers can be measurably increased.

•Community service has been an important institution in America since the founding of the colonies, including serving in such groups as local militias and volunteer fire brigades.

Current Policy:

•ACTION, the federal domestic volunteer agency, which includes the VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program, received \$191,292,000 million in appropriations in fiscal 1991.

•On October 24, 1990 Congress passed S. 1430, the National and Community Service Act, sponsored by Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Rep. Augustus Hawkins (D-Calif.), and it has been cleared for the president's signature. This bill authorizes \$62 million for fiscal 1992 to enhance national and community service.



Sen. Kennedy
(D-Mass.)

Policy Options for Addressing National Service

•School-Based Service

This model for national service would incorporate community service requirements into the curricula of the country's 16,700 public and 2,200 non-public high schools. The National Service bill recently passed by Congress supports this option by allocating money to a Commission Board to give grants to states for school-aged service programs. \$16.8 million was authorized to be appropriated for these programs through this bill.

•Military Draft-Based Service

This model of service would restore a compulsory draft and add a civilian service alternative. France, Spain, Denmark, and West Germany are examples of countries that currently have compulsory national service programs centered around participation in the military. There has been no mandatory draft in the United States since 1973, though a system of registration was enacted in the late 1970s.

•Voluntary Service

This model for service is completely voluntary and would include programs such as conservation corps, Peace Corps, VISTA, the National Guard, and any number of state and local initiatives. Support for this option was given by Congress when it passed the National Service bill which authorizes \$16.8 million to be appropriated to conservation and youth service corps for fiscal 1991.

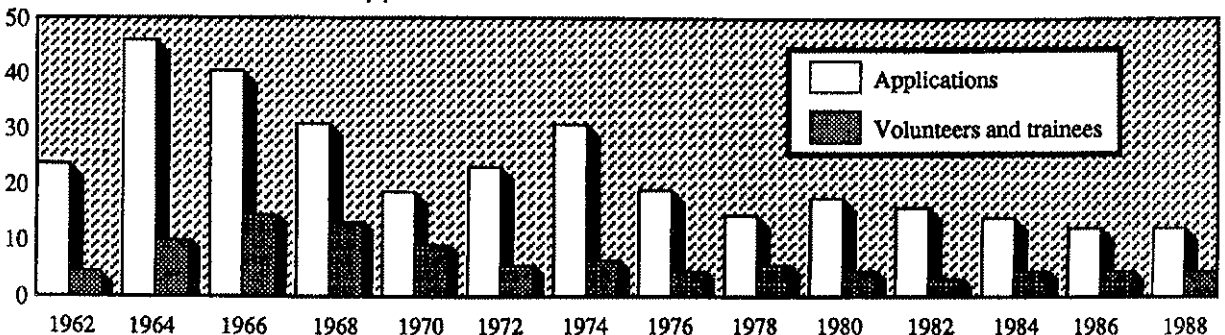
•Universal Service

This model of service would require all citizens above a certain age to engage in a set period of military or civilian service, or to pay a fee in lieu of service. The Citizenship and National Service Act of 1989, sponsored by Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Okla.) and Rep. Dave McCurdy (D-Okla.) is an example of this model. The bill would have required citizens to perform two years of military or one year of civilian service in order to be eligible for certain federal aid programs such as student loans; in return for service, the individuals would receive vouchers.

Primary Source: Joe Cummings, "Perceptions of National Service and the New Initiatives for 1989," *Future Choices: Toward a National Youth Policy* (Vol. 1, No. 1, Spring 1989) p. 53-61.

Peace Corps: Volunteers and Trainees

Thousands of individuals/applications



Fiscal Years

The Peace Corps had 5,219 volunteers and trainees in 1987, which represents the fewest number of volunteers and trainees since 1962. The Peace Corps received 10,279 applications in fiscal 1987, which represents the lowest total in the agency's history.

Source: United States General Accounting Office, May 1990

Results of a Survey on Volunteering

Youth Service America held a National Conference to discuss "A New Generation of Service" on October 23-27, 1990 in Washington, D.C. The conference was divided into forums and workshops to discuss many of the problems and solutions now facing youth service, such as "The Federal/State/Local Partnership: What's In It For Me?", "How Service Broadens the Educational Experience" and "Service: The Trojan Horse of School Reform?" An article on the conference and some of the meetings will be published in the next issue of Youth Policy.

INDEPENDENT SECTOR Examines Volunteerism

The following is a news release of a survey organized by INDEPENDENT SECTOR that examines volunteerism in the United States. INDEPENDENT SECTOR is a non-profit coalition of over 750 corporate, foundation and voluntary organization members with national interest and impact in philanthropy and voluntary action.

Survey methodology: From March 23 to May 20, 1990, the Gallup Organization conducted in-home personal interviews with 2,727 Americans 18 years of age and older. Respondents were asked a series of questions about their own giving, volunteering, personal goals, motivations for giving and volunteering and opinions and attitudes about charitable organizations.

America may be entering a renaissance of philanthropy, with a new thrust in generosity by the so-called "Baby Boomers" playing a major role.

The study shows a spirit of caring, evidenced by sharp increases in giving and volunteering among most segments of society, a growing positive attitude toward community service and a swelling majority of the baby boom generation giving time and money to charitable causes.

More than 98 million Americans, a dramatic 23 percent increase from 1987, volunteered their time and talent to charitable endeavors in 1989. The survey also found that 75 percent of American households are contributing to charitable causes. The average contribution of an American household is \$734, up 20 percent,

after inflation, over two years ago.

"The dramatic increases in donating time and money among the baby boom generation is good news for today and may suggest even better news for the future as this very large population group assumes community responsibility," said INDEPENDENT SECTOR president, Brian O'Connell. "Previous surveys indicated rather disappointing giving and volunteering by this group. These increases, plus the group's changing attitudes and values reflected in the study make the picture for future giving and volunteering in this country very bright."

The INDEPENDENT SECTOR report, "Giving and Volunteering in United States" is the second in a series of studies to be conducted every two years, providing comprehensive information on trends and motivations in giving and volunteering.

The survey also recorded impressive increases in giving and volunteering among blacks. Sixty-one percent (61%) of all blacks surveyed contribute money to charitable organizations, up from 51 percent in 1987. Blacks also showed a marked increase in volunteering. Thirty-eight percent (38%) reported volunteering time in 1989, compared with 28 percent in 1987.

"Fortunately, at a time when needed

"The dramatic increase in charitable behavior by these baby boomers is particularly encouraging because the sheer size and youth of this group likely forecasts two generations of continuing growth in giving," said Brian O'Connell, president of the Independent Sector, the country's largest philanthropic coalition. Source: Press Conference, October 16, 1990)



most, giving and volunteering are up in almost all categories," said INDEPENDENT SECTOR Vice President for Research, Virginia A. Hodgkinson. "If these encouraging trends continue, we can predict a renaissance of philanthropy in America." Hodgkinson pointed out that "Eighty-six percent (86%) of Americans ranging from 35 to 44 years of age contributed to charity, up nine percent points from two years ago. Sixty-four percent (64%) of persons between the ages of 35 and 44 volunteered time, an increase of 10 percentage points over 1987."

The increases may have been affected in part by even more positive public attitudes toward charity. An overwhelming majority of respondents, 81 percent, agreed that charities are needed more today than in the past.

In a notable similarity to 1987, the new survey found that, overall, the less affluent are still more generous than the wealthy in

terms of making. In 1989, contributions came under \$500 from households with income; \$60,000 contributed income; those with \$100,000 contributed income; those with income of \$100,000 or more contributed income.

"Even the wealthy have become more generous since 1987, that is, as generous as the wealthy people and this raises the caring profile, lending the impact it is routine for comes. In fact, do are not get lower income of their disposable Americans having. This is benefited so much which owes so much should be setting

Volunteerism

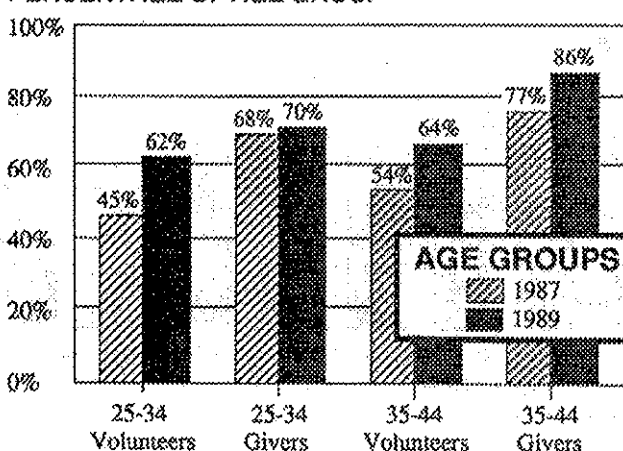
PERCENTAGE
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

Source

"The proportion highest among the (percent), followed (percent). In this (percent) of households (percent), two children (Source: Independent Sector)

BABY BOOMERS INCREASE THEIR GIVING AND VOLUNTEERING

PERCENTAGE OF AGE GROUP



Source: INDEPENDENT SECTOR

Updates: Toward a National Youth Policy

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terms of making monetary sacrifices. In 1989, contributing households with incomes under \$10,000 gave 5.5 percent of their household income to charity. Those with incomes between \$50,000 and \$60,000 contributed 1.7 percent of their income; those between \$75,000 and \$100,000 contributed 3.2 percent; and those with household incomes of \$100,000 or more contributed 2.9 percent.

"Even though giving among the wealthy has increased from two years ago [1987], that group cannot be described as generous," said O'Connell. "Many wealthy people are wonderfully generous and this raises the dollar average and caring profile of their population group, lending the impression that such generosity is routine for families with upper incomes. In fact most of America's well-to-do are not generous. In comparison to lower income families and, in contrast to their disposable income, most wealthy Americans have to be characterized as stingy. This economic group which has benefited so much from our society and which owes so much to their communities should be setting the standard of giving at



least five percent of income to worthy causes and institutions," O'Connell said.

Other study findings include:

- Volunteer hours total 20.5 billion, with an impressive dollar value of \$170

billion. The 1988 study showed 19.5 billion hours with a dollar value of \$150 billion.

- People are likely to give and volunteer when directly asked. Eighty-seven percent (87%) of those asked to volunteer, volunteered.

- Volunteers contribute more money than non-volunteers, and contributing households that also volunteer give a much higher percentage of their household income than households that do not volunteer. Volunteers gave 2.6 percent of their household income in 1989 compared with 1.1 percent of household income from nonvolunteers.

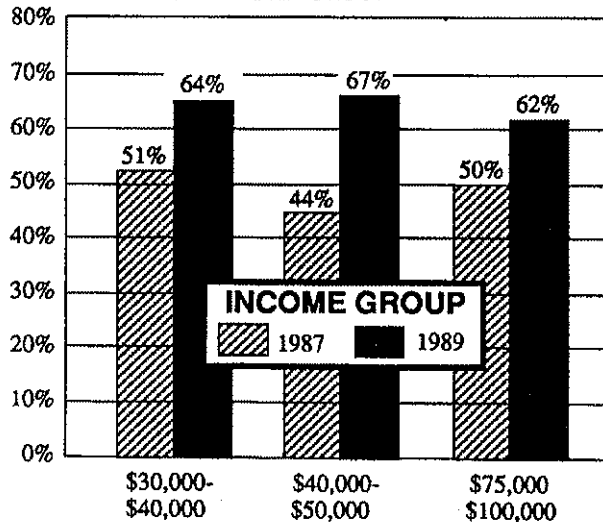
- The availability of the charitable deduction stimulates increased giving. Contributors who intended to itemize and claim a charitable deduction on their income tax gave 3.3 percent of their average household income, but only 1.4 percent if they did not intend to do so. These findings show that contributors give considerably more if they claim a charitable deduction.

- Religion plays a major role in charitable behavior. Those who give and volunteer regularly to their church or religious institution are the leaders in giving and volunteering to all causes. Eighty percent (80%) of those affiliated with a religious institution reported household contributions to charity and 59 percent volunteered. Sixty-three percent (63%) of those not affiliated with a religious organization reported household contributions and 42 percent volunteered.

- A higher proportion of households from the Midwest reported contributions (82 percent) more than in the West or East

Volunteering Increases in Certain Income Groups

PERCENTAGE OF INCOME GROUP



Source: INDEPENDENT SECTOR/Gallup Service

"The proportion of respondents who reported both contributing and volunteering was highest among those reporting two children (60 percent), and three or more children (55 percent), followed by those who reported one child (51 percent), or no children (42 percent). In this category, households with three or more children gave the highest percentage of household income (3.5 percent), followed by those with no children (3.1 percent), two children (2.6 percent), and one child (2.5 percent). (Source: Independent Sector, *Giving and Volunteering*, p. 51)

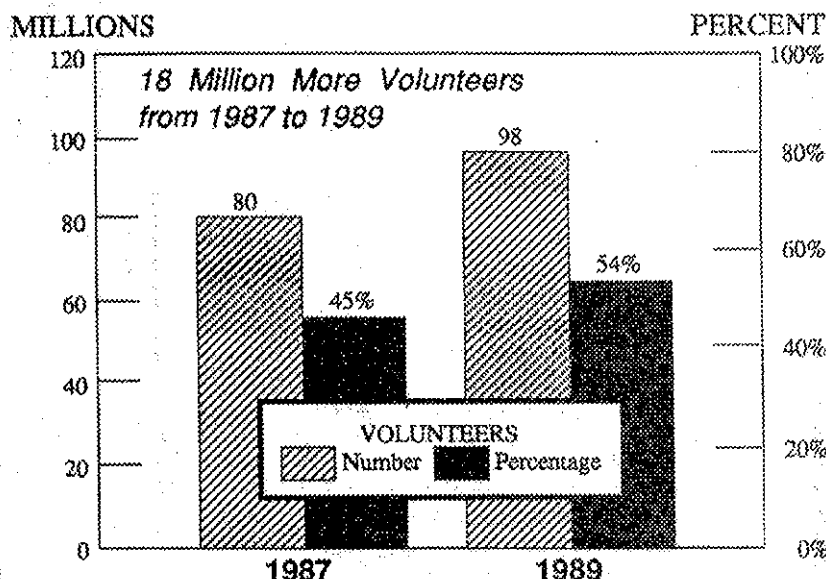
(77 percent) or the South (65 percent). Contributions as a percentage of household income were highest in the West (3.1 percent) followed by the Midwest (2.7 percent), the South (2.5 percent), and the East (1.8 percent).

- A higher proportion of respondents reported volunteering from the Midwest (58 percent) and the West (57 percent) than from the South (51 percent) and East (50 percent).

- Average contributions to various types of charity varied from 1987 to 1989. Contributions per household were highest in health organizations, up 35 percent and in environmental organizations, up 20 percent. While the average contribution for most charities increased over the period, average household contributions to international organizations declined by 38 percent; by 17 percent to organizations in the arts, culture and humanities; and by 12 percent to private and community foundations.

- Female respondents reported that their households gave a much lower percentage of household income than males, although a higher proportion of females reported household contributions than males. While the proportion of females reporting household contributions in-

NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS JUMPS 23%



Source: INDEPENDENT SECTOR/Gallup Service

creased from 73 percent in 1987 to 78 percent in 1989, the average percentage of household income they contributed remained unchanged at 1.8 percent. In comparison, the proportion of males reporting

household contributions increased slightly from 69 percent in 1987 to 72 percent in 1989, but the average percentage of household income they contributed increased from 2.1 percent to 3.1 percent.



Virginia A. Hodgkinson, vice president of the Independent Sector, leads the Institute's research programs. She said: "The behavioral patterns we are seeing now reflect a number of influences on this

population group: Young adults in their child-bearing years tend to become more altruistic. This group is more highly educated than preceding generations. They are at the peak of their earning careers. They are more concerned about values. They were in the vanguard of the peace movement in the 60's. These influences add up to more charitable giving and more volunteering for community service.

"If these encouraging trends continue, we truly can predict a renaissance of philanthropy in America," Ms. Hodgkinson added.

Source: Press Conference, October 16, 1990



Scope of

- Disagreement set by the
- Rep. T of the Select that there are people in America not counted measure of poverty, we're at five American at a Select Committee on October 4.
- The Her 'Poor' Are At poverty report low income A

The Policy researching a from federal, projects; broad issue areas. 1 points, are reviewed and objective. In the up of the Policy /

The following are America's Poverty Line: standard for the evidence as to present contrasted that d.

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The United will release its stating, as it has are some 31 million Americans, and when the War dence mounts i poverty report the living standards.

The Measurement of Poverty in the United States: The Overview

Scope of the Problem:

• Disagreement has arisen as to whether the poverty standard set by the Census Bureau is accurate.

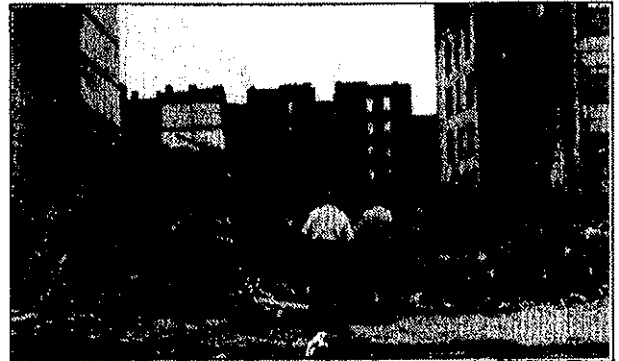
• Rep. Tony Hall (D-Ohio), chairman of the Select Committee on Hunger, said that there are 13 million "hidden" poor people in America, living in destitution but not counted by the official government measure of poverty. "With these additional poor, we're talking about one out of every five Americans living in poverty," he said at a Select Committee on Hunger hearing on October 4, 1990.

• The Heritage Foundation in a recent report entitled, "How 'Poor' Are America's Poor?" stated that "the Census Bureau's poverty report dramatically understates the living standards of low income Americans."



Current Policy:

• According to the Census Bureau, the government's definition of the poverty line is \$12,092 for a family of four.



Policy Options on the Measurement of Poverty in the United States:

The Policy Action CORPS members are in the process of researching and gathering information on proposed solutions from federal, state, and local legislation; pilot demonstration projects; books and reports; and judicial rulings on various issue areas. The proposed solutions, offering distinct viewpoints, are reviewed by outside experts to ensure their accuracy and objectivity.

In the upcoming fall issue of *Future Choices*, two members of the Policy Action CORPS, Marjorie Lee, an undergraduate

at Stanford University and Joyesha Bhattacharya, an undergraduate at University of Michigan touch upon a related issue to the measurement of poverty—the necessity of comprehensive information system in their article entitled, "Foundation for the Future: The Need for a Comprehensive Information System on Children." While the Policy Action CORPS continues to research these options on the measurement of poverty and other issues, we appreciate any additional information and viewpoints that our readers would like to contribute.

The following are excerpts of reports from the Heritage Foundation, "How 'Poor' are America's Poor?" and the Urban Institute and Policy Report, "Redrawing the Poverty Line: Implications for Public Policy." Both articles advise creating a new standard for the Census Bureau poverty report, but each proposal offers different evidence as to why the poverty line should be redrawn and recalculated. The articles present contrasting methodology as how to gather the information about the impoverished that directly influences public policy and legislation.

How 'Poor' Are America's Poor?

The Heritage Foundation

Introduction

The United States Census Bureau will release its annual report on "poverty" stating, as it has for many years, that there are some 31 million to 32 million poor Americans, a number greater than in 1965 when the War on Poverty began. Evidence mounts that the Census Bureau's poverty report dramatically understates the living standards of low income Americans.

Here are a sample of facts that will not be mentioned in next week's poverty report.

• 38 percent of the persons whom the Census Bureau identifies as "poor" own their own homes with a median value of \$39,200.

• 62 percent of "poor" households own a car; 14 percent own two or more cars.

• Nearly half of all "poor" house-

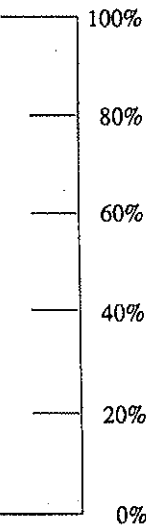
holds have air-conditioning; 31 percent have microwave ovens.

• Nationwide, some 22,000 "poor" households have heated swimming pools or Jacuzzis.

"Poor" Americans today are better housed, better fed, and own more property than did the average U.S. citizen throughout much of the 20th century. In 1988, the per capita expenditures of the lowest income fifth of the U.S. population exceeded the per capita expenditures of the median American household in 1955, after adjusting for inflation.

Better Off Than Europeans, Japanese. The average "poor" American lives in a larger house or apartment than does the average West European (This is the average West European, not poor West Europeans). Poor Americans eat far more meat, are more likely to own cars and dishwashers, and are more likely to have basic modern amenities such as

PERCENT



increased slightly to 72 percent in age of house- and increased percent.



Updates: Toward a National Youth Policy

indoor toilets than is the general West European population.

"Poor" Americans consume three times as much meat each year and are 40 percent more likely to own a car than the average Japanese. And the average Japanese is 22 times more likely to live without an indoor flush toilet than is a poor American.

The Census Bureau counts as "poor" anyone with "cash income" less than the official poverty threshold, which was \$12,675 for a family of four in 1989. The Census completely disregards assets owned by the "poor," and does not even count much of what, in fact, is income. This is clear from the Census's own data: low income persons spend \$1.94 for every \$1.00 in "income" reported by the Census. If this is true, then the poor somehow are getting \$0.94 in additional income above every \$1.00 counted by the Census. Indeed, the gap between spending and the Census' count of the income of the "poor" has grown larger year by year till, now, the Census measurement of the income of poor persons no longer has any bearing on economic reality.

Ignoring Billions of Dollars. A key reason that the Census undercounts the financial resources of the "poor" is that, remarkably, it ignores nearly all welfare

spending when calculating the "incomes" of persons in poverty. Thus, as far as the Bureau is concerned, billions of dollars in in-kind benefits to poor Americans have no effect on their incomes. Out of \$184 billion in welfare spending, the Census counts only \$27 billion as income for poor persons. The bulk of the welfare system, including entire programs that provide non-cash aid to the poor, like food stamps, public housing and Medicaid, is completely ignored in the Census Bureau's calculation of the living standards of the "poor." The missing welfare spending that is excluded from the Census Bureau poverty reports comes to \$158 billion, or over \$11,120 for every "poor" U.S. household.

The Census Bureau's poverty reports should be replaced by a new survey that counts income and assets accurately. With accurate counting, the number of poor persons would be shown to be only a small fraction of the Census Bureau's current estimate of 31.8 million.

Behavioral Effects of Welfare. However, the fact that there are fewer Americans living in material poverty than the official Census poverty report indicates, does not mean that the War on Poverty has been a success. Welfare spending seriously diminishes work effort and

earned income. The largest effect of increased welfare spending is not to raise income but merely to replace self-sufficiency with dependence. Welfare also undermines family structure. In 1965, the black illegitimate birth rate was 28 percent; today it is 64 percent. Properly measured, the number of persons in material poverty has shrunk since 1965, but at the unnecessary cost of producing a burgeoning underclass. The current welfare system has created entire communities where work is rare, intact families virtually unknown, and dependence on government a way of life passed on from generation to generation.

Creating A New Poverty Report

The Census Bureau's annual estimate of poverty does not provide useful information about the standard of living of low income Americans or the impact of antipoverty programs. The current poverty report should be abolished and replaced with a new report based on the following methodology:

1) The economic well-being of American households would be measured using a detailed survey of household expenditures, not the deficient "income" survey currently used.

2) For those households receiving government non-cash assistance, such as energy assistance or public housing, the Census Bureau would determine the full cost of the subsidy provided. Special care would need to be taken to ensure that the number of Americans receiving such programs was properly counted. The value of medical benefits would be determined by what is generally termed the "insurance value": the average cost of the benefits received by individuals of a similar age and gender.

3) The survey would determine home ownership, housing quality, and other household assets. If assets exceeded a certain level—say \$15,000—the household would not be defined as poor.

4) Any household where expenditures plus the cost of additional government benefits did not exceed the current poverty income threshold, and which did not have assets above the fixed asset limit, would be counted as poor. (In some cases

a household or the poverty threshold below it. Under such a household as poor.)

More Accurate could be conducted the existing Census survey undertake each year. (The survey would be the Survey of Income Participation, the, and the Consumer The new survey accurate picture

**R
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People who make ends meet double bind. They rely for government housing, child stamps, but the to cover the basic are poor by all except the official measuring poverty Census Bureau who works full hour, or about officially poor.

Consumer Durables Owned by "Poor" Households¹: 1987

	All "Poor" Households	"Poor" Owner-Occupied Households	"Poor" Renter-Occupied Households
One or more automobiles ²	62.2	77.9	52.4
Two or more automobiles	13.6	21.0	9
Air Conditioning	49.0	55.8	44.7
Microwave Oven	30.7	-	-
Washing Machine	56.0	84.6	38.1
Dishwasher	17.0	23.2	13.2
Garbage Disposal	18.9	15.1	21.3
Refrigerator	99.1	99.5	98.9
Telephone	81.3	91.4	75.0

1. Figures represent percent of "poor" households which own the specified item.

2. "Automobiles" includes personal trucks and vans.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, American Housing Survey for the United States in 1987, (Washington D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1989).

Poverty Rate Threshold (Percentage)

Year

1972
1977
1982
1987

Source: The Urban

N.A. Not Available

a. Poverty threshold and all other thresholds
b. Based on HUD Section 8 subsidies

from the rest of society. But, as poverty thresholds rise, and the population seen as "poor" comes to resemble more closely a cross-section of the population as a whole, public support for assisting the poor may also increase.

For these reasons, Ruggles recommends that the basic flaws in our current measures be eliminated, and a complete updating of consumption standards be undertaken, based on detailed expert judgments about minimally adequate budgets. Among the other suggested changes are development of new methods of adjusting poverty thresholds for differences in family needs, compilation of information about poverty spells and family assets, elimination of separate adjustments for the elderly, and adjustments for urban/rural and other geographic differences.

Adjusting Thresholds and Updating the Minimum Basket of Goods

Official poverty thresholds—adjusted only for price change—have lost their validity as a measure of minimum adequacy. They are now much lower relative to normal family spending patterns than they were in the 1950s. Ruggles considered two other methods besides price change to update them—linking them to changes in income (as income rises, pov-

erty thresholds would be adjusted upward by a similar percentage), and reestimating them directly to account for changes in consumption patterns and in the relative prices of goods consumed. She demonstrates that all three methods of adjustment—changes in prices, income, and consumption needs—produce different poverty lines.

families of four or more, for example, are able to take advantage of fewer economies of scale than are families of two or three.

Given these drawbacks, Ruggles recommends reestimating these needs by family size directly; if this proves impractical, she suggests that the next best method is to provide similar adjustments

for each addit family size.

Adjusting Thresholds for Difference in Family Needs

Current c for the elderly than those for Ruggles recon ferential for th little evidence needs vary fr population. Sh hand, incorpo ferences in pri lesser extent t dence, because evidence is st and persistent

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Poverty: Children as Victims:

- Children are the poorest group in society. More than one in five live in a household with an income below the poverty level. *Source: National Commission on Children, 1989*

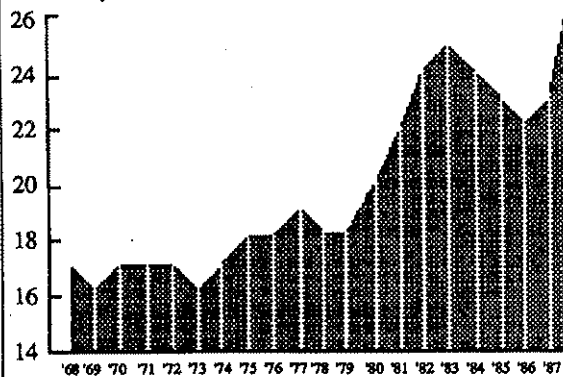
- Today 20 percent of American children live in poverty.

- From 1979 to 1988, 2.2 million more children became poor, contributing to the total of almost 12.5 million poor children in the United States in 1988.

Source: Rep. Barbara Boxer, (D-Calif.) hearing before the House Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security, July 24, 1990

Poverty Rates for Children Under Six, 1968-1987

Percent of U.S. Children



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty. Based on tabulations from the 1968-1988 March Supplements to the Current Population Survey. Population Division, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Feminization of Poverty:

- From 1976 to 1986, the number of female-headed households doubled.

- More than half the children in households headed by single women are impoverished.

- In 1987, the poverty rate for all families headed by women was 17.7%, while the poverty rate for families headed by men was 7.8%.

- The standard of living for women and their children declines by 73% in the first year of divorce.

- A child who lives in a female-headed household has a one in two chance of being poor.

Source: Rep. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), hearing before the House Subcommittee on Legislation and National Security

concerning the introduction of the Federal Council on Women Act, July 24, 1990; and Bread for the World Organization, Hunger 1990: A Report on the State of World Hunger, n.d.



Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) chairman of the House Government Operations Committee at a hearing on the Federal Council on Women Act in July 1990 said: "The number of female-headed households in this country continues to rise, and the poverty problems of these women and their children have become increasingly serious. It is time we take steps to reverse the feminization of poverty."

Updates: Toward a National Youth Policy

ding to Ruggles, readjust poverty over time is to recalibrate consumption maps every decade would be grounded in a minimum adequacy would keep the relatively current of needs.

Thresholds for Family Needs

analysis to community level across groups, they are thresholds for family size, age of children, income, and a host of other variables. The current for making such adjustments, according to several flaws. The trend in adjustments by income is reasonable, the adjustments for additional people appear to be inadequate. The adjustments are irregular in partially increase as income rises, implying that for example, are of fewer economic families of two or

backs, Ruggles argues these needs if this proves inadequate the next best similar adjustments

ouncil on Women and Organization, Hunger, n.d.

Mich.) chairman of the National Operations on the Federal Reserve in July 1990. The female-headed family continues to grow. Some of these families have become so poor that it is time we take the feminization of

for each additional person regardless of family size.

Adjusting Thresholds for Elderly Heads of Households

Current official poverty thresholds for the elderly are about 10 percent lower than those for the rest of the population. Ruggles recommends abolishing the differential for the elderly, because there is little evidence that their consumption needs vary from those of the rest of the population. She recommends, on the other hand, incorporating adjustments for differences in price levels by region and to a lesser extent by urban versus rural residence, because with these variables the evidence is strong that there are sizable and persistent differences.

What Income Should Be Counted?

Ideally the resource measure used to determine whether or not a family is poor should be as complete as possible, taking into account all the resources that actually are available to the family. However, the income measure used today in compiling

official poverty statistics includes only income received in cash and does not subtract tax payments.

Ruggles recommends that the Census Bureau move to an after-tax basis for measuring income and incorporate "cash-like" in-kind benefits such as food stamps into the measure of disposable income. She demonstrates that these two changes would largely offset each other for the measured poverty rate as a whole, although specific individuals would not necessarily be affected by both to an equal degree.

Accounting for Assets

It is extremely difficult to obtain and compare information on family assets. However, Ruggles suggests that regular publication of data on the asset holdings of the low-income population would help in assessing the severity of the remaining unmet needs of the poor.

Time Period Measured

If an individual's 12 or more months in poverty happen to fall into different

income years, and the person has more resources during the remainder of those years, he or she will not be counted as "officially" poor.

To remedy this distortion, Ruggles recommends the development of a measure based on spells of poverty to supplement the current system based on annual income.

The poverty measurement standard developed 25 years ago by Molly Orshansky for the Social Security Administration was a reasonable one, given the data and tools then available. But many changes in both society and our data resources have occurred since the mid-1960s, and an overhaul of our poverty measurements to bring them into alignment with today's world is long overdue.

Source: *Urban Institute Policy and Research Report Summer 1990, "Redrawing the Poverty Line: Implications for Public Policy" and also "Drawing the Line: Alternative Poverty Measures and Their Implications for Public Policy," by Patricia Ruggles, The Urban Institute Press, May 1990. For further information, contact The Urban Institute, (202) 857-8702.*



Poverty in the United States: The Overview

Scope of the Problem:

• On September 26, 1990, the Census Bureau released its latest data on the extent of poverty in the United States. Among its findings:

• The average poverty threshold for a family of four was \$12,675 in 1989 and \$12,091 in 1988.

• The number of poor (31.5 million) and the poverty rate (12.8 percent) have declined since the most recent peak in 1983 (35.3 million poor and a poverty rate of 15.2 percent), but both remain above the most recent lows in 1978 (24.5 million poor and a rate of 11.4).

• Half of the nation's poor in 1989 were either children under age 18 (39.9 percent) or persons age 65 and over (10.7 percent).

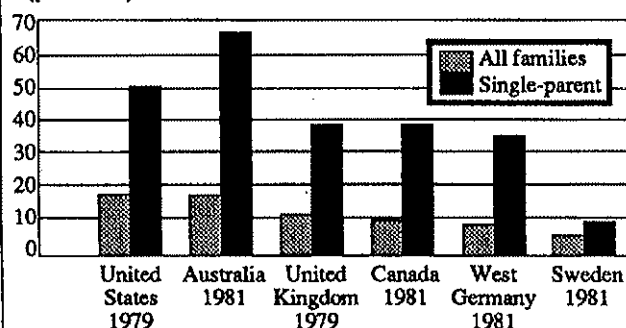
• The poverty rate for children is still higher than any other age group (19.6 percent).

Current Policy:

• An interagency group convened last year by a senior adviser to President Bush to rethink the nation's antipoverty efforts, outlined a dozen broad policy options. In later meetings, a higher-ranking group, the President's Domestic Policy Council, decided that the options were too expensive or would stir too much controversy. The council, a Cabinet-level advisory body, concluded that the administration should simply try to make current programs work better. Although administration officials could not agree on specific proposals to reduce poverty, they did agree on a theme to link existing programs. The message, as described in papers circulated among Cabinet members, is that "an effective anti-poverty system must provide 'economic empowerment' for American families, to enable them to participate fully in the mainstream of the economy."

Source: Robert Pear, "Administration Rejects Proposal for New Anti-Poverty Programs," *The New York Times*, July 6, 1990.

The U.S. Has More Child Poverty Than Other Major Industrial Countries (percent)



Source: *Children's Well-Being: An International Comparison; International Population Reports Series P-95, No. 80, Bureau of the Census.*

Policy Options for Addressing Poverty in the United States

The Policy Action CORPS members are in the process of researching and gathering information on proposed solutions from federal, state, and local legislation; pilot demonstration projects; books and reports; and judicial rulings on various issue areas. The proposed solutions, offering distinct viewpoints, are reviewed by outside experts to ensure their accuracy and objectivity.

This month we feature highlights of a report from the

Center for Community Change which provides a proposed solution to eliminate poverty in the United States. In the next issue of *Youth Policy*, we plan to cover another anti-poverty strategy advocated by Stuart Butler of the Heritage Foundation, as well as other options. While the Policy Action CORPS continues to research the options on poverty and other issues, we appreciate any additional information and viewpoints that our readers would like to contribute.

The following is an excerpt from the Center for Community Change's fall report, "America's Third Deficit: Too Little Investment in People and Infrastructure." The Center assists and works with hundreds of low-income community organizations across the country. The report examines the total unmet human and physical needs in the country and then presents 20 possible revenue options to meet those needs.

America's Third Deficit: Too Little Investment in People and Infrastructure

Rhetoric of "Self-Help" Means Little Without Reality of Money

Not only politics but time produce strange bedfellows.

More than 20 years after the Center

for Community Change began working with low-income, community-based organizations as a way for poor people to help themselves and to have a voice in decisions that affect them, "self-help" has

become the rage of the right.

"Poor people have to be empowered to take control of their own lives," says the conservative Heritage Foundation's domestic policy expert Stuart Butler.

HUD Secretary Jack Kemp agrees, advocating for public housing residents to manage or even own their apartments.

Unfortunately, as thousands of poor people who embody self-help would tell Butler and Kemp and other conservative converts, the rhetoric of self-help means little unless it comes with the reality of

money to over

Congress plans to reduce succeed, they indirectly red lowering inter practically not that is more in long-term soci the other two j efficiency in our infrastructure.

Paying The Restore Equi

Whether (of the poor) need to spend one, we believe that we don't that it's going begin address:

In the abs intervention, we generate that have to help Many like to be will be enough large budget defense cutb: enough. And it will undoubtedly the dividend.

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Updates: Toward a National Youth Policy

money to overcome decades of neglect.

Congress and the administration plans to reduce the budget deficit. If they succeed, they believe they will at least indirectly reduce our trade deficit by lowering interest rates. But they will do practically nothing to lower a third deficit that is more important for our country's long-term social and economic health than the other two put together—the huge deficiency in our investment in people and infrastructure.

Paying The Bill: Raise Revenue and Restore Equity

Whether you agree that all these needs (of the poor) must be addressed or that we need to spend as much money on each one, we believe it's impossible to argue that we don't have profound needs and that it's going to cost a lot of money to begin addressing them.

In the absence of extraterrestrial intervention, we'll have to raise taxes to generate that money, and all of us will have to help meet these national needs. Many like to believe the "peace dividend" will be enough. But given our already large budget deficit, money saved by defense cutbacks will not be nearly enough. And the crisis in the Middle East will undoubtedly lessen or further delay the dividend.

Given the willingness of large majorities to accept tax increases to pay for specific needs (as we documented earlier), we believe Americans can be convinced to accept tax increases that would be far more significant than those coming to reduce the budget deficit. To convince them, leaders need to communicate the long-term returns of investing tax dollars in infrastructure, education, health and other fields; point out that our tax burden is actually considerably lower than that of other countries; and perhaps most important, devise increases that will make the overall tax system more equitable.

Tax equity is the most important aspect of tax policy. Indeed, we believe the erosion of tax equity has caused our current tax shortfall as well as the "tax revolt" by middle-income Americans.

According to a Congressional Budget

How To Raise The Money Needed

(in billions)

Source	Annual Revenue
Tax income above \$113,000 at 33% rate	\$4.2
Add a 38% bracket for incomes above \$500,000	15.0
Raise the corporate income tax to 38%	10.0
Increase and reform alternative minimum tax	9.6
Fix overseas corporate tax loophole	10.0
Slow corporate depreciation	6.1
Eliminate depletion allowance	2.0
Eliminate business lunch deduction	9.4
Tax overseas residents	1.4
Limit mortgage interest deduction	9.4
Tax gain on home sales	8.0
Tax gain on inherited assets	3.5
Lower estate tax exemption	1.0
Toughen IRS collections / tax foreign firms	20.0
Increase tax on alcohol and tobacco	10.2
Increase user fees	2.0
Tax pension and IRA income	7.5
Tax securities' transfers	12.5
Amortize ad costs	3.0
Tax pollutants	19.7

Source: Center for Community Change, *America's Third Deficit: Too Little Investment in People and Infrastructure, 1990*.

Office analysis, between 1977 and 1988, the overall federal tax structure became considerably less progressive. This resulted largely from the 1981 tax cut, which particularly helped the wealthy. The 1986 tax reform improved the progressivity somewhat by eliminating many tax breaks for the wealthy. But it also reduced the number of tax rates from 15 to three and lowered the maximum rate from 50 percent to 33 percent (28 percent for income greater than \$113,000). The results of these changes (plus an increase in the social security tax) were dramatic, according to the CBO report, *The Changing Distribution of Federal Taxes: 1975-1990*:

- Considering all federal taxes, including the Social Security payroll tax, the poorest 10 percent paid 9.7 percent of their income in taxes compared to only 8.3 percent in 1977. This is true despite the 1986 tax bill's removal of six million poor families from the tax rolls.

- Meanwhile, the richest 10 percent saw their tax burden drop percent of their income in 1977 to 26.6 percent in 1988, a decrease of about 10 percent. The wealthiest 1 percent saw their tax bill decline from 39 percent of earnings to 29 percent. For every \$100 they paid in federal taxes in 1977, they paid only \$75 in 1988.

- Virtually every segment of the population except the wealthiest 20 percent paid a larger share of their income for taxes in 1988 than in 1977.

The result of these tax-related changes plus a big increase in the percentage of income going to the wealthiest 20 percent of Americans (from 41.6 percent of total income to 44 percent—a \$60 billion per year gain) meant that after-tax family income went up dramatically for the wealthy. The top 1 percent saw their annual after-tax income rise from \$174,500 to \$303,900 in constant, inflation-adjusted dollars between 1977 and 1988 a 74 percent jump. The wealthiest 10 percent enjoyed a 27 percent overall boost. But at the bottom of the ladder, the least prosperous 10 percent actually saw their average income drop by 9 percent. Families in the middle experienced little or no improvement. By 1988, the wealthiest one-fifth of American families had 9 1/2 times the income of the poorest fifth, the greatest disparity in the post-WWI period.

The point is that there is a tremendous amount of wealth being made by the top 20 percent of Americans—wealth that results in large part from public investments in the infrastructure, education, health care and welfare. But this growing wealth is not being adequately taxed,

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which means the burden falls increasingly on middle-income taxpayers, who understandably often lead the outcry against higher taxes.

A central tenet of the argument against higher taxes is that our tax burden is already oppressively high. Indeed, when Presidential candidate George Bush invited us to read his lips about never raising taxes, an observing alien might have come away believing that Americans were the most tax-oppressed citizens on Earth. But that isn't the case.

According to a survey done by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, our total taxes as a percentage of output are lower than in 20 of 22 major industrialized nations: 18 European countries plus Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and Canada.

All taxes as a percentage of our national output (30 percent in 1987) are drastically lower than among our European allies. In France, for example, taxes are 45 percent of national production; in Britain, 38 percent; in West Germany, 38 percent; Sweden, 57 percent.

The point is not that we should equal or emulate these societies but learn from them. People in a democracy will support much higher levels of taxation to meet social needs, especially if the tax system is equitable. And growing, market-oriented economies can co-exist with higher levels of taxation and services.

20 Ways to Close America's Third Deficit

The amount of money required to meet our many needs may seem formidable to the average taxpayer. But consider the context. The 1981 tax cut is draining \$323 billion a year from federal coffers, according to OMB calculations. Though subsequent tax measures moderated its effect somewhat, the loss in revenue still totalled \$190 billion in 1990. A recent study by Citizens for Tax Justice found that the wealthiest 10 percent of taxpayers are paying \$93.1 billion less in taxes this year than they would have under the pre-1987 tax system.

Just as dramatic has been the increase in defense spending, which went from \$134 billion to \$299 billion during the decade, a jump of \$165 billion a year. As this type of increase demonstrates, a \$5 trillion economy has a lot of resources that can be mobilized to meet a perceived need.

After years of rhetoric about the need to not raise taxes, it may surprise people how relatively easy it would be to raise large sums. "Although \$50 billion to \$100 billion of additional annual revenue looks like an awfully large amount of money, in an economy with a GNP of more \$5 trillion it is not a daunting figure," wrote Herb Stein, appointed by Richard Nixon to head the Council of Economic Advisors. Stein came up with suggested tax increases that would total \$134 billion. The Congressional Budget Office cited more than 80 ways to increase taxes.

In this chapter we propose 20 tax changes, many suggested by the CBO. Our suggestions focus on ways to close loopholes and insure that everyone pays a fair share of their resources to meet our immense national needs.

While we believe that each of these changes would have an overall positive effect on the country, we are not recommending that all of them be implemented at the same time. Obviously they won't be, just as we won't suddenly be investing \$150 billion or so to help overcome our "third deficit." We know it will take time to change our direction. What these recommendations demonstrate is that the federal government—and only the federal government—has the capacity to raise the money we need to invest in our future



Stuart Butler, director of Domestic Policy Studies at the Heritage Foundation, has proposed "a comprehensive conservative war on poverty" in his 1987 book, "Out of the Poverty Trap." The strategy that includes four approaches—work, family, decentralization, and empowerment, was featured in the *National Review* and the *New York Times*.

- Reach an accommodation on civil rights.
- Adopt a strategy of empowerment.
- Attack the poverty industry.
- Encourage state experimentation programs.

without penalizing lower- and middle-income Americans today.

1. Require people with incomes up to \$500,000 to pay at the 33 percent rate for all their income.
2. Add a 38 percent bracket for taxable income above \$500,000.
3. Raise the top corporate tax rate to 38 percent. This change would raise an average of \$10 billion a year over five years, with only the richest corporations affected.
4. Increase the alternative minimum tax from 21 to 25 percent for individuals and from 20 to 25 percent for corporations and eliminate remaining loopholes.
5. Change the way in which foreign taxes paid by U.S. corporations operating overseas are credited against their U.S. tax bill.
6. Stretch out the period during which a capital investment can be depreciated.
7. Eliminate the depletion allowance.
8. Eliminate the deductibility of the two-martini lunch—the provision which allows businesses to deduct meals, recreation and club memberships for their executives as business expenses.
9. Eliminate the ability of Americans working overseas to avoid taxes on up to \$70,000 of income.
10. Limit the amount of mortgage interest that can be deducted.
11. Tax 30 percent of gains from home sales.
12. Tax the full gain on inherited assets when they are sold and limit estate tax avoidance schemes.
13. Lower the inheritance tax exclusion to \$300,000.
14. Beef up IRS tax collection efforts.
15. Raise the excise tax on tobacco and alcohol.
16. Increase user fees for barges, ports, private planes and commercial flights to cover the infrastructure costs.
17. Impose a 5 percent tax on income from pensions and IRAs.
18. Impose a 0.5 percent tax on transfers of securities.
19. Amortize a portion of advertising costs.
20. Impose excise taxes on pollutants.

For a copy of the report, contact Publications, Center for Community Change, 1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007, (202) 342-0726.

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Meetings

November

27-29. The United States Department of Agriculture presents its 67th Annual Outlook Conference in Washington, D.C.

This year's theme is "Agriculture in a World of Change," and some of the nation's leading analysts will discuss prospects for farmers, agribusiness and consumers in 1991. In addition, special attention will be given to the sweeping changes here and abroad that are creating a climate of uncertainty in agriculture.

Contact: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Outlook Conference, Rm. 5143 South Building, Washington, DC 20250-3900; (202) 447-8559.

29-Dec.1. The National Community Education Association holds its 25th anniversary conference, November 29-December 1, 1990, in San Antonio, Texas. The theme is "Community Education: People Reaching People."

Contact: Joe Oliveri, Exhibit Chairman, Austin Community Education, 5555 North Lamar, Suite H-121, Austin, TX 78751; (512) 441-8919.

29-Dec.1. McAuley Institute and Catholic Charities, USA hold the fourth in a successful series of regional housing conferences in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The conferences will emphasize getting churches and faith communities more involved in housing. Workshops will cover such subjects as setting up new organizations, housing for aging populations, overview of financial packaging, building strong partnerships and marketing your vision.

Contact: Rhonda Stauffer, McAuley Institute, 8300 Colesville Road, #310, Silver Spring, MD 20910; (301) 588-8110.

30-Dec. 4. The American Vocational Association holds its 1990 convention, November 30-December 4, 1990, in Cincinnati, Ohio. The theme is "Working Today for a Better Tomorrow."

Sessions will feature topics such as demographic changes, the impact of global competition on worker preparation, and how technology is changing the workplace.

Contact: Joanna Punphrey, AVA Conference, 1410 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314; (703) 683-3111.

December

3-5. The American Correctional Association, along with the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office for Treatment Improvement and the Washington State Division of Juvenile Rehabilitation, presents "Drug and Alcohol Treatment in Juvenile Justice Settings" in Seattle, Washington.

This conference is designed for juvenile detention, corrections, community residential, probation and after-care personnel.

Contact: Aggie Nestor, American Correctional Association, 8025 Laurel Lakes Court, Laurel MD 20707; (301) 206-5045.

3-5. The National Health Lawyers Association presents "Managed Care: Penetrating the Mainstream of American Health Care" in Chicago, Illinois.

In its general session, this program will address the significant impact of the purchaser community's increasingly sophisticated and aggressive demands for managed care products including direct contracting with employers, as well as the implication of the national policy debate over universal access to health care for the managed care industry.

Contact: Program Division, National Health Lawyers Association, 1620 Eye Street, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20006; (202) 833-1100.



5-8. The National Conference of State Legislatures holds "Labor Issues 1991" in Miami, Florida.

A multitude of labor issues face state policymakers due to the complex changes in our country's sociopolitical environment, our economy and the international marketplace. This conference is designed for legislators, legislative staff and others interested in the evolving workplace, labor management relations and worker benefits.

Contact: Brenda Trolin, NCSL, 1050 17th Street, Suite 2100, Denver, CO 80265; (303) 623-7800.

Practising Law Institute

The Practising Law Institute holds 3 important programs during the month of December, 1990.

"Civil Rico," a program designed for lawyers who prosecute or defend Civil Rico action, will be held on December 3-4. It will provide an in-depth analysis of the Civil Rico statute and the most recent court decisions interpreting that statute. "Civil Rico" will be held in San Francisco.

On December 6-7, PLI holds its 23rd Annual Immigration and Naturalization Institute in Los Angeles. The program will focus on recent key developments, including publication of substantial revisions of the H-1 temporary worker and employer sanction regulations.

PLI holds "Handling a Narcotics Case" December 8, in New York City. This program will take a look at pre-trial and trial practice techniques in narcotics cases. Ethical considerations and civil effects of narcotics prosecutions, including forfeiture and disclosure of cash payments of attorney's fees, will be addressed.

Contact: Ann Tracy, Practising Law Institute, 810 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019; (212) 765-5700.

Meetings

6. The Sex Coalition presents "A Stitch in Time: Sexuality Education for the Pre- and Early Adolescent" in Washington, D.C.

Deborah Roffman will offer an encore presentation of her highly successful January 1990 workshop. The pre- and early adolescent stages are critically important years developmentally and present unique opportunities for preventive education.

In this workshop, participants develop skills in identifying critical developmental issues for 9-13 year olds; sequencing educational experiences for grades 4-8 around key developmental themes; and utilizing creative group-centered approaches for teaching and communication with 9-13 year olds.

Contact: Sex Education Coalition, P.O. Box 3101, Silver Spring, MD 20918; (301) 593-8557.

7. The William T. Grant Foundation Commission on Work, Family, and Citizenship sponsors the Youth Apprenticeship Conference. The theme for this year's conference is "Youth Apprenticeship, American Style."

Participants will hear several proposals for an American youth apprenticeship system. There will be ample opportunity to respond, argue and debate the merits of and strategies for creating a youth apprenticeship system that is appropriate for the United States.

Contact: Sam Halperin, The William T. Grant Foundation, 1001 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 301, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 775-9731.

8-11. The National Association for Perinatal Addiction Research and Education sponsors a conference in Chicago, Illinois on "The Challenge of the '90s: Children at Risk, Parents at Risk."

Contact: Nancy Davis, NAPARE, 11 East Hubbard Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60611; (312) 329-2512.

January

7-11. The National Institute For Alternative Care Professionals holds its Fourth Annual National Conference. The theme

for this year's conference is "The Foster Care Professionals: Confronting the Challenges of 1991...and Beyond."

Topics to be presented will include: specialized foster care, separation and grieving process, independent living, understanding the needs of abused children, Juvenile Court issues...and many more.

Contact: Vicki Yaney, Director of Operations, NIFACP, 10100 Elida Road, Delphos, OH 45833; 1 (800) 532-7239.

13-15. A conference to discuss the shortage of minorities in college will be held in Lexington, Kentucky. The conference will be attended by professors, legislators, researchers, and school administrators.

The conference is also inviting proposals from the education community. Papers and panel topics should be consistent with the major focus of the conference.

Contact: Dr. Ernest Middleton, Conference Coordinator, University of Kentucky, 341 Dickey Hall Lexington, KY 40506-0017; (606) 257-3836.

15. The Division of Continuing Education presents its National Conference on Rural Adult Education Initiatives in Kansas City, Missouri.

The conference, with the theme, "Making Education Part of the Rural Solution: A Vision for the 1990s," will focus on such topics as enhancing rural employment opportunities and rural business development; enhancing rural lifestyles; protecting and maintaining the rural environment; outside influences on rural economics; and community models that work.

Contact: Michelle Mazzola, Rural Clearinghouse, Division of Continuing Education, 111 College Court Building, Kansas State University, Kansas City, MO 66506-6001; (913) 532-5560.

15-18. The American Council on Education holds its 73rd annual meeting in San Francisco, California. The theme is "Great Expectations: the Reality and the Promise."

Contact: The American Council on Education, One Dupont Circle, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 939-9410.

28-30. National Housing Law Project and Massachusetts Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation cosponsor a national workshop on preserving the nation's federally subsidized housing stock which is at risk due to expiring use restrictions in Danvers, Massachusetts.

The conference is scheduled to take place at a strategic time, after the expected passage of new federal legislation to replace the protections which currently expire at the end of October 1990.

Contact: Vincent O'Donnell, CEDAC, 19 Temple Place, #200, Boston, MA 02111; (617) 727-0506.

February

4. The Conference Board holds its 1991 Business and Education Conference in New York City.

The theme for this year's conference is "Translating National Goals Into Action: The Next Stage of Education Reform." Participants will be presented with corporate responses to the needs for educational reform, action initiatives to guide and support school reform efforts and corporate programs that address national education goals.

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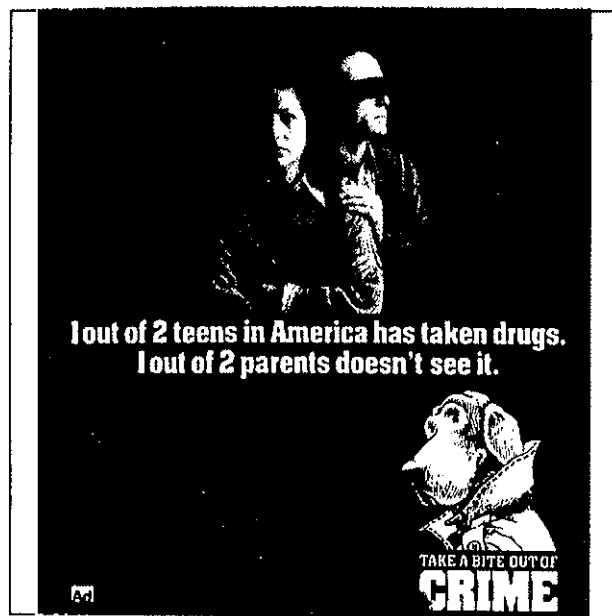
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Meetings

Contact: The Conference Board, Inc., P.O. Box 4026 Church Street Station, New York, NY 10261-4026; (212) 339-0290.

4-6. Miami-Dade Community College is hosting a conference focusing on Critical Thinking in Developmental Studies, Critical Thinking in Vocational/Occupational Studies, and Critical Thinking in General Education and Honors Programs.

Contact: Nora Hernandez Hendrix, Miami-Dade Community College, Wolfson Campus, 300 NE, 2nd Avenue, Miami, FL 33131-2297; (305) 347-3000.

13-15. The Office for Substance Abuse Prevention announces 4th National Learning Community Conference to be held in Washington, D.C.

The theme for this year's conference is "Getting Prevention to Work Among Populations At Risk for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse."

Contact: OSAP, Learning Community, P.O. Box 65061, Washington, DC 20035; (202) 728-2916.

26-March 1. The Training Resource Center, in conjunction with the Child Welfare League of America and other National Juvenile Justice Services members presents the "National Juvenile Justice Services Leadership Forum" in Washington, D.C.

The Leadership Forum will immediately precede the annual CWLA Conference. This will include juvenile justice related workshops, keynote addresses, legislative updates, visits to Capitol Hill and a rally for children.

Contact: Training Resource Center, Eastern Kentucky University, 217 Perkins, Richmond, KY 40475-3127; (606) 622-1497.

28-March 2. The Children's Defense Fund presents its annual conference in Washington, D.C. The theme for the conference is "What Works: Bridging the Gaps for America's Children."

"Together in the 1990s, we must give America's families and children the consistent, high quality, coordinated help they need to be healthy, well educated, and productive."

Contact: Children's Defense Fund, 122 C Street, NW, Washington, DC; 20001; (202) 628-8787, ext. 236.

What Works: Bridging the Gaps for America's Children

Children's Defense Fund Annual National Conference
February 28-March 2, 1991

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.

What makes some programs and services successful for the children while others flounder? This three-day conference will bring together people from around the country involved in education, early childhood development, adolescent pregnancy prevention, maternal and child health, youth employment and training, child welfare, and more. Together we will explore the elements of success and how we can apply them to our individual efforts, as well as how we can collaborate to be more effective for children. Children, after all must bridge the gap between the realities of 1990s and the challenges of the twenty-first century. Plan now to attend!

Contact: Children's Defense Fund, 122 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001; (202) 628-8787.

A woman infected with the AIDS virus has a 50-50 chance of giving it to her baby.

And babies with AIDS rarely live to see their second birthday.

So if you plan on having a child someday, take steps now to make sure it will start life with the chance to live it.

The surest way to keep from getting the AIDS virus is to avoid sex. If you do have sex, use a latex condom with spermicide. Use them every time, from start to finish, according to the manufacturers' directions.

Don't make exceptions. And don't put off taking precautions.

Because no matter when you plan on having a baby, you have to start being a good mother right now.

ONE OF THE
SCARIEST
THINGS ABOUT
THE AIDS
CRISIS IS WHO
IT CAN HIT

HELP STOP AIDS. USE A CONDOM.



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